

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00229 210851Z

41

ACTION H-03

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R 210701Z FEB 76

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2856

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0229

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (STEVENSON, ADLAI E.), IZ

SUBJ: CODEL VISIT TO BAGHDAD

1. SENATOR ADLAI STEVENSON AND HIS STAFF ASST. WILLIAM BUELL WERE RECEIVED BY GOI FONMIN REP WITH APPROPRIATE COURTESIES ON FEB. 17. GOI OPENED THE VIP LOUNGE AND PROVIDED SENATOR WITH A FONMIN CAR COMPLETE WITH MOTORCYCLE ESCORTS. ON FEB. 18 SENATOR AND BUELL MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI AND LATER WITH MINISTER OF OIL TAYIH ABD AL-KARIM. CODEL ALSO SIGNED BOOK IN PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, RECEIVED SHORT BRIEFING AT USINT AND ATTENDED STAG LUNCHEON IN THEIR HONOR AT P.O.'S RESIDENCE. AFTER SHORT PERIOD FOR SIGHTSEEING IN BAGHDAD'S MOSQUES AND MUSEUMS, CODEL LEFT AS SCHEDULED FOR TEHRAN ON EVENING OF FEB. 18.

2. ACCORDING TO SENATOR, HIS TALKS WITH TWO MINISTERS PRODUCED NO SURPRISES. IRAQIS TOOK STANDARD HARD LINE ON ISRAEL AND ARGUED FOR A SECULAR STATE IN PLACE OF JEWISH STATE IN PALESTINE. BOTH MINISTERS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER CIA SUPPORT FOR KURDS AND APPEARED TO BE ALMOST PARANOID ABOUT CIA IN GENERAL. BOTH ALSO INDICATED THAT STATE OF USG-GOI POLITICAL RELATIONS WOULD REMAIN AS THEY ARE (I.E. NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS) UNTIL USG CHANGES ITS POLICIES TOWARDS ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI ADDED THAT U.S. COMPANIES WOULD BE TREATED EQUALLY WITH ALL OTHER FOREIGN FIRMS IN COMPETING FOR BUSINESS IN IRAQ, DESPITE OUR POLITICAL DIFFERENCES.

3. USINT BRIEFED SENATOR PRIOR TO HIS MEETINGS ON IRAQI ATTITUDE TOWARDS BOYCOTT BUT SENATOR LATER SAID THAT QUESTIONS OF BOYCOTT DID NOT ARISE IN COURSE OF HIS TALKS.

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PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00229 210851Z

4. ON DEPARTURE, SENATOR SAID VISIT HAD BEEN VERY EDUCATIONAL
FOR HIM AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT OTHER U.S. POLITICAL FIGURES
WOULD FIND IT POSSIBLE TO VISIT IRAQ.
WILEY

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